ABSTRACT

The invention provides a method for preparing cross-linked cellulosic fibers. A sheet of cellulosic fibers treated with a caustic solution under non-mercerizing conditions is cross-linked with a solution containing polymeric polycarboxylic acid cross-linking agents. The treated cellulosic fibrous material is dried and cured in sheet form to promote intrafiber cross-linking. Cross-linked fiber products of this method, which is economic, that possess good absorption and wet resiliency properties are also disclosed.